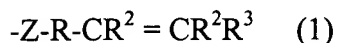


having at least one group of the general formula (1) at a molecular chain terminus;



wherein Z represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a bivalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a group of the formula NR' , R' represents an univalent hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R represents a carbonyl group, a direct bond or a bivalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^3 represents a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

2. (Currently Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1

wherein R^3 in the general formula (1) comprises a carbon atom, a hydrogen atom and 0 to 2 oxygen atoms.

- B² 3. (Currently Amended) The polymer according to Claim 2

wherein R^3 in the general formula (1) is a hydrocarbon group

- B³ 7. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1

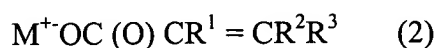
wherein R^1 and R^2 in the general formula (1) is the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

- B⁴ 13. (Currently Amended) The polymer according to Claim 12

wherein a metal complex catalyst for said atom transfer radical polymerization is a complex of copper, nickel, ruthenium or iron.

- B⁵ 16. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1

which is obtained by substituting a compound of the general formula (2) for a terminal halogen group of vinyl polymer having a halogen atom at a molecular chain terminus;



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^3 represents a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; M^+ represents an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

17. (Currently Amended) The polymer according to Claim 16

wherein the terminal halogen-containing group of a vinyl polymer having a halogen atom at a molecular chain terminus is represented by the general formula (3);



wherein R^{22} and R^{23} each represents a group linked to an ethylenically unsaturated group of the vinyl monomer; X represents a chlorine, a bromine or an iodine.

18. (Twice Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1

which is obtained by reacting a vinyl polymer having a hydroxyl group at a molecular chain terminus with a compound of the general formula (4);



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^3 represents a univalent organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; X represents a chlorine, a bromine or a hydroxyl group.

REMARKS

Claim 1-31 are now in the application. Claim 1-18 are directed to the elected invention and claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-18 are drawn to the elected species. Claims 19-31 are directed to non-elected invention and may be cancelled by the Examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention.

Claim 1 has been amended by replacing the phrase "wherein Z represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a group of the formula NR' , R' represents a univalent hydrocarbon group